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POTOMAC NEWS NOTES

From Chatterbox Times Bureau

WASHINGTON — Career foreign service officers are taking strong exception to the current spate of criticism against Secretary of State Dean Rusk. There have been a number of unfounded rumors that he may be replaced. The career officials in the State Department are very high on Rusk and find him effective and excellent at delegating authority. One veteran maintains that he has never seen the Department function so well.

—Although the Soviet bloc countries account for about 85 per cent of Cuba's present trade, the Kennedy administration continues to be concerned by the sale of spare parts for Western machinery to Castro by traders in Great Britain, Canada, and West Germany. If this trade could be cut off, the effect would be serious upon the Cuban economy but the foreign suppliers maintain to their governments that there is no reason they should not be able to sell items to Cuba that they are allowed to sell to the Soviet Union. There is no present answer to the problem.

—The establishment of a Cuban task force in the State Department is proceeding quickly in the effort to coordinate departmental policies on the island. The State Department will open a new Miami office under career officer John Crummins to provide closer relations with the various exiles there and a psychological warfare office will be created in Washington to handle the propaganda aspects of the situation.

The Feb. 27 inauguration of Juan Bosch as president of the Dominican Republic is taking on

some of the aspects of Andrew Jackson's inauguration in 1829. Bosch has declined to issue any government invitations or to observe the normal protocol at such events although a large number of U.S. officials have been invited on a personal basis. Bosch even wanted to exclude his own military from the occasion until it became apparent that some soldiers would be necessary for security purposes.

—Director John McCone of the Central Intelligence Agency is being so thorough in observing the President's wish to have the agency and its director become



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less apparent to the public that he will not give any autographs except to personal friends. There is a broad feeling that Allen Dulles permitted himself and his top aides to become too well known during the period that he was intelligence chief.

Abraham Ribicoff is making no secret as a senator of the disappointments that he experienced as a cabinet officer in the Kennedy administration. He has alluded in talks several times to one of his main irritations, the fact that the cabinet was seldom convened by the President. Ribicoff is also reported to be still annoyed that he ran at the foot of the ticket in Connecticut last November.

As the AFL-CIO executive council prepares to meet in Miami, the availability of George Meany for another two-year term as president of the merged labor organization is being taken for granted. Meany, now 68, has talked of retiring for four years but the increasing difficulties between the AFL and the CIO plus the lack of a strong successor are prompting him to stay on. Walter Reuther, meanwhile, continues to develop parallel offices within the organization which are presumed to point to his plans for an eventual break.

The ties between President Kennedy and Sen. Albert Gore, who was a close associate in the Senate, have been strained by the nomination of Atty. Gen. Kennedy to promote a Republican federal judge, William E. Miller, to the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals. Miller, who conducted the recent Hofa trial in Nashville, is highly regarded, but Gore feels strongly that the post should go to a Democrat.

Some military scientists are interested by mathematical calculations which show that the area which Red China has taken from India would be perfect in terms of aiming accuracy as a launching place for missiles aimed at closing the Mediterranean and the Panama Canal. The area has further advantages as a launching site in the fact that it is level and surrounded by mountains.

Although Japan stopped buying sugar from Cuba after the October crisis, she is substantially enlarging her trade with the Soviet Union. A new three-year agreement between the two countries will produce a volume of \$700 million by 1969. A large part of the Japanese exports will be mercury. However, to cooperate in restricting the shipment of strategic goods.

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